

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05393 280210Z

70

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 OES-03 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 HEW-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM, TGEN

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE--VOTE ON ITEM 69, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. USUN 5354; B. STATE 254938

1. SUMMARY. WHILE THE TIME OF TROUBLES FOR THE US IN THE THIRD COMITE IS FAR FROM OVER, VOTING ON A SERIES OF US AND UK AMENDMENTS TO A SOVIET-INITIATED DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GAVE MOMENTS OF SATISFACTION. OUTSTANDING US AMENDMENTS IN L.2148 WERE ADOPTED, CAUSING SOVIETS TO ABSTAIN ON CERTAIN PARAS OF THEIR OWN TEXT. MORE SURPRISINGLY, A US AMENDMENT PROPOSED FROM THE FLOOR TO THE EFFECT THAT INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BY THE STATE TO HARASS THEIR PRIVACY AND TO INFRINGE ON THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY WAS ADOPTED BY A WIDE MARGIN. THE DECLARATION AS A WHOLE WENT THROUGH BY A VOTE OF 96-0-19(US). END SUMMARY.

2. THE THIRD COMITE VOTED OCTOBER 27 ON AMENDMENTS, DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT DECISION UNDER ITEM 69. US AMENDMENT (L.2148, PARA 1) DESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN
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PREAMBULAR PARA 3 OF REVISED DRAFT (REF(A)) WAS ADOPTED 36(U)-

15-57. SOVIETS THEN ABSTAINED AS THE COMITE ADOPTED THE AMENDED PARA 34(US)-0-57. US AMENDMENT (L.2148, PARA 2) TO ADD A NEW PREAMBULAR PARA STRESSING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WAS ALSO ADOPTED (40(US)-13-59.

3. IN THE OPERATIVE SECTIONS OF THE DECLARATION, THE UK/FRG AMENDMENT (L.2160, PARA 3) TO REDRESS THE BALANCE BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN OP PARA 1 WENT THROUGH BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 28(US)-21-70. OP PARA 1 AS AMENDED WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 38(US)-0-75, WITH THE SOVIETS AGAIN ABSTAINING. UK/FRG AMENDMENT (L.2160, PARA 4) TO OP PARA 4 OF THE REVISED DECLARATION WAS DEFEATED 23(US)-38-50. ORAL US AMENDMENT (REF (A)) TO OP PARA 6 WAS ADOPTED 51(US)-12-61.

4. THE ENTIRE DRAFT DECLARATION AS AMENDED WAS ADOPTED 95-0-19(US). FINALLY, THE FRENCH DRAFT DECISION TO PLACE THE ITEM ON THE 31ST GA AGENDA (L.2162) WAS ADOPTED 105-0-7(US), WITH THE USSR ABSTAINING. US EXPLAINED OVERALL ABSTENTION AS PER REF (B)).

5. COMMENT. THE VOTES ON THE AMENDMENTS INDICATE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ENTIRE SOVIET-INITIATED EXERCISE MORE THAN SOLID SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN POINT OF VIEW. MOST OF THE THIRD WORLD GENERALLY STOOD ON THE SIDELINES THROUGHOUT DEBATE AND VOTING. THUS, IN THE ROLL CALL VOTE FOR THE UK/FRG AMENDMENT TO REDRESS THE BALANCE BETWEEN STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN OP PARA 1, THE US AND WEO COUNTRIES WERE JOINED BY BHUTAN, CHILE, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, ISRAEL, JAPAN, LIBERIA, NEPAL, NICARAGUA, AND THE PHILIPPINES. NEVERTHELESS, TODAY'S OUTCOME DEMONSTRATES THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO STATE THE CASE FOR WESTERN DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND AT TIMES EVEN TO PREVAIL OVER THE TOTALITARIAN PREFERENCE TO ENHANCE THE STATE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL. MOYNIHAN

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